# Desqview speeds up applications

If you routinely use more than one software program, chances are you're wasting a lot of time getting in and out of applications. There's a better way to operate.

A program like Desqview can be used to create a multiwindow environment that manages all your programs.

Desqview adds pizazz to the otherwise drab disk operating system of most IBM-type computers. The amount of memory that your computer has, however, will dramatically affect just how fast this switching takes place.

Because you always return to your place in a program this method will be faster than the tiresome process of closing out of one program and firing up another.

Other features include:

■ Windowing: Instead of always displaying programs on a full screen, you can designate that some programs display on a portion of the screen called a "window." This allows the contents of a number of different programs to be viewed at once. You specify the size and placement for each win-

**BUSINESS TOOLS**



**Hillel Segal**

dow. You can split the screen, lap one program over another or devote a full screen to an application. A "zoom" feature lets you toggle a program's display between a window and full screen.

■ Multitasking: You can have one program take place in the background while you use another application in the foreground. Unless you have the latest type of processor, an 80386, this process will come about through "time slicing." For this to work, both programs will have to fit into memory at the same time.

■ Transfer information: Desqview can transfer information from one program to another, even when the programs know nothing about each other. This can be handy when transferring num-

bers from a spreadsheet to a word processor document. Not only can you pause one program to look up information in another, you can cut from one program and paste to another whatever you see on the screen.

■ Keyboard macros: You don't have to bother with a separate keyboard enhancement program, like ProKey or SuperKey. Desqview has its own keystroke recording feature. Repetitive command sequences or keystroke combinations are recorded as "scripts" that can be named and retrieved again from a pop-up menu.

Pop-up menus are your main contact with Desqview. When you want to go to another program, you just "point-and-shoot" from the on-screen menu. Your current program is suspended while Desqview automatically switches the new one. The same pop-up window lets you resize and reposition windows, transfer data and display on-screen help. This function is done with or without a mouse.

Quarterdeck Office Systems deserves credit for designing

Desqview to work on all IBM personal computers. It will even work on floppy-based systems.

On the downside, be aware of the memory limitations of your computer before you invest in a program like Desqview. You may find that you've bought a program that mainly shaves a few seconds when you change applications.

Also, Desqview is not a program you can easily install by yourself. And it involves a great deal of fine-tuning to run other pop-up programs with it.

■ The Bottom Line: After using Desqview, DOS seems plain. If you regularly use several programs, there's no virtue in expending energy going in and out of the different applications.

Desqview is published by Quarterdeck Office Systems, 150 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, Calif. 90405, (213) 392-9701. It costs $129.95.